

ER 11-9130a

Mr. Howard D. Greybar

Dear Mr. Greybar:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of 14 November concerning President Eisenhower's forthcoming visit to Spain.

This is a matter which deals with American foreign policy and, therefore, it does not fall within the purview of the Central Intelligence Agency. However, your courtesy in writing to us again is appreciated.

Sincerely

SIGNED

Executive Officer

O/DCI, [redacted] bak(17 Nov. 59)

Distribution:

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1 - JSE

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Dear Mr. Dulles,

Executive Registry  
11-9/30

This letter is written to warn that in my opinion there is a significant probability that the visit of the President to Spain could be a disaster, i.e. violent anti-American mobs, demonstrations, insults, etc..


During my 3 months in Europe this summer, I spoke to people from many lands. According to a conservative Spanish scientist, who up to a couple years ago was sympathetic to Franco, the Spanish people have never been so hostile and bitter towards the United States as now. The reasons for the change are obvious. Before U.S. bases and "aid", we were a far-off vague wonderland. Now, comparatively rich U.S. servicemen on Spanish soil in comparatively luxurious bases, plus the wholesale corruption in the handling of U.S. aid, plus the military aid for the armed forces of a discredited corrupt Fascist dictatorship have led to widespread disgust for our policies. And I must add, rightfully so.

If one postulates in Spain an alert imaginative Communist underground with popular feeling as indicated above, the danger for Ike riding through Madrid should be obvious. Surely the young men with old ideas in the NSC planning division who dreamed up the trip do not want a repetition of Caracas for the President!

Of course to me our foreign policy suffers dozens of dreary little failures weekly, occasionally rising to the heights of mediocrity by a belated obvious move. With the President carefully insulated from anyone with ideas by his coterie of old crony millionaires, one can hope for no improvement from this Administration. But one hopes that situations that are potentially disastrous for American foreign policy can be avoided, although the slow erosion of our world position continues.

Your information from Spain may assure you that all is quiet but some analysis on the creation of riots should convince you that such assurances mean very little in this case. At the very least the President deserves a warning, (which Mr. Nixon did not have) if he intends to drive through Madrid, so that he may decide whether the very dubious diplomatic gains are worth the silent wave of cynicism that will be engendered around the world as well as the danger to himself.

Yours very truly,

  
Howard D. Greyber

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